

# Lafourche Telephone Co., Inc.

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CC 96-45

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

November 12, 1997


Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
CC Dkt 96-45  
Room 222  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington DC

In accordance with the requirements for Federal Universal Service funding, we are forwarding a copy of the order from the Louisiana Public Service Commission designating our company, Lafourche Telephone Company, Inc. as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.

We have also enclosed an affidavit certifying that Lafourche Telephone Company, Inc. for the purpose of universal service support determination, meets the definition of rural carrier.

Please contact me at 504-693-4567, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

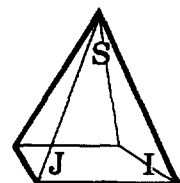
Sincerely,

  
Sinclair "Kit" Grenshaw  
Vice President

Enclosures (2)

No. of Copies rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
Lafourche

Post Office Box 188  
112 West 10th Street  
Larose, LA 70373  
(504) 693-4567



BEFORE THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
EX PARTE

Docket No. U-22767

Lafourche Telephone Company, Inc., ex parte.

**In Re: Exemption from the Provision of Toll Limitation to Qualified Low Income Consumers and Designation and Certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier.**

**ORDER NO. U-22767**

**(Decided at the October 22, 1997 Open Session)**

Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act mandates that a telecommunications carrier may not receive funds from the Federal Universal Service Fund after January 1, 1998, unless it is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) under section 214(e) [of the Telecommunications Act] by the state public service commission.<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(1) provides that only those carriers who offer and advertise *all* of the services supported by the Federal Universal Service Fund are eligible for ETC designation.<sup>2</sup>

However, 47 C.F.R. § 54.101(c) allows state commissions to grant requesting carriers additional time to complete any network upgrades that are necessary in order to provide single-party service, access to enhanced 911 service, or toll limitation, if exceptional circumstances warrant granting the additional time. Therefore, a carrier that does not currently provide these three services may receive universal service support, beginning January 1, 1998, for the duration of the period designated by the state commission while system upgrades are completed.

Lafourche Telephone Company, Inc. ("Lafourche") petitioned this Commission for certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier, without intervention. Lafourche submitted an affidavit declaring that it provides all of the required universal services except toll limitation.<sup>3</sup> Lafourche requested additional time in order to upgrade its system to comply with this requirement.

This matter was brought before the Louisiana Public Service Commission at its Open Session on October 22, 1997. After discussion on the merits and a motion by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Sittig, the Commission unanimously voted to designate the above named carrier as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier. The Commission further voted to grant the carrier additional time to comply with the toll limitation requirement and that exceptional circumstances warranted the granting of additional time.

<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 214(e)(2) mandates that a state commission, upon its own motion or upon request, designate a common carrier, that meets the above requirements, as an eligible telecommunications carrier for a service area designated by the State commission.

<sup>2</sup> The supported services are: 1) Single-Party Service; 2) Voice Grade Access to the Public Switched Network; 3) DTMF Signaling or its functional equivalent; 4) Access to Emergency Services; 5) Access to Operator Services;

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. Lafourche be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the Larose, Galliano, Golden Meadow, Leeville/Fourchon, and Grand Isle exchanges, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 214(e).
2. Lafourche be granted an extension of time until December 31, 1998 to upgrade its system to provide toll limitation.
3. Exceptional circumstances warrant the granting of said extension of time.
4. This Order is effective immediately.

**IT IS SO ORDERED**

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**

November 6, 1997

/S/ DON OWEN

DON OWEN, CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT V

/S/ IRMA MUSE DIXON

IRMA MUSE DIXON, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT III

/S/ C. DALE SITTIG

C. DALE SITTIG, COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT IV

/S/ JAMES M. FIELD

JAMES M. FIELD, COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT II

  
SECRETARY

/S/ JACK "JAY" A. BLOSSMAN, JR.

JACK "JAY" A. BLOSSMAN, JR., COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT I

Service List  
Docket No. U-22767

Commissioners

Jackie Rombardo - LPSC Staff Attorney

Arnold Chauviere, LPSC Utilities Division

Stanley Perkins - LPSC Auditing Division

AA - Janet S. Boles, Boles, Boles & Ryan, 7809 Jefferson Hwy., Suite D3,  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

**AFFIDAVIT**

**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

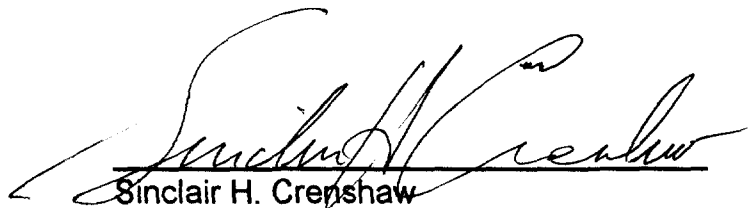
**PARISH OF LAFOURCHE**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary Public, personally came and appeared:

Sinclair H. Crenshaw, Vice President of Lafourche Telephone Company, Inc., hereafter referred to as "LATELCO" who, being first sworn by me, did depose and declare:

In the FCC May 7 Report and Order, the FCC provided that "in order for the administrator to calculate and support payments, a carrier must notify the FCC and state commission, that for purposes of universal service support determination, it meets the definition of rural carrier."

I hereby certify that Lafourche Telephone Company, Inc. meets the definition of rural carrier.

  
Sinclair H. Crenshaw

Sworn to and subscribed before me in the Parish of Lafourche, at Larose, Louisiana, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November 1997.

  
Notary Public